

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 30, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 669**

**Introduced by Assembly Member La Suer**

February 17, 2005

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An act to add Section 13159.11 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to fire safety, *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 669, as amended, La Suer. Firefighter training and standards.

**Existing**

(1) *Existing* law requires the State Fire Marshal with policy guidance and advice from the State Board of Fire Services to, among other things, make fire services training and education programs available on a voluntary basis to fire departments through the California Fire Service and Education Program and to establish and validate recommended minimum standards for fire protection personnel and fire protection instructors at all career levels through the California Fire and Arson Training Act.

This bill would create the California Firefighter Training Standards Task Force, composed of specified state agency heads and representatives from other associations and entities, to coordinate with participating agencies and stakeholders to conduct a statewide needs assessment and make recommendations for the implementation and funding of a comprehensive, continuing training and education

structure that meets the needs of the disciplines within the fire service profession.

The bill would also require the task force to make a specified report to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2005.

(2) *This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.*

Vote: ~~majority~~<sup>2/3</sup>. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission reported in  
4 April of 2004, that the training of California's firefighters is  
5 complex and diverse and has many agencies participating in the  
6 development and delivery of firefighter training programs.

7 (b) Many state agencies and other associations play key roles  
8 in providing firefighter training and educational opportunities for  
9 California firefighters. These entities include the California  
10 Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program, the Department of  
11 Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Fire Marshal, the  
12 Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the state Emergency  
13 Medical Services Authority, CAL/OSHA, the California  
14 Community Colleges, the California State Firefighters'  
15 Association, the California Fire Chiefs Association, the  
16 California Fire Districts Association, the United States Fire  
17 Administration, the National Fire Academy, and local  
18 jurisdictions that provide fire services.

19 (c) While California has led the way in developing better  
20 training programs for firefighters, these programs have not been  
21 coordinated in a uniform manner. Currently, the State Board of  
22 Fire Services recommends voluntary minimum statewide service  
23 level or training standards to the State Fire Marshal. There are no  
24 mandates for the maintenance of performance standards or  
25 continuing education on firefighting.

26 SEC. 2. Section 13159.11 is added to the Health and Safety  
27 Code, to read:

28 13159.11. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall convene the  
29 California Firefighter Training Standards Task Force which is

1 herein established to coordinate with participating agencies and  
2 stakeholders to conduct a statewide needs assessment and make  
3 recommendations for the implementation and funding of a  
4 comprehensive, standardized, continuing education structure on  
5 firefighting that meets the needs of all disciplines within the fire  
6 service profession, including, but not limited to, all of the  
7 following:

8 (1) Urban and wild land fire suppression.

9 (2) Fire prevention.

10 (3) Agency communication.

11 (4) Emergency medical services.

12 (b) The task force shall consist of the following:

13 (1) The State Fire Marshal.

14 (2) The Director of Forestry and Fire Protection.

15 (3) The Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

16 (4) The Director of the Emergency Medical Services  
17 Authority.

18 (5) The Director of CAL/OSHA.

19 (6) The Chair of the California Firefighter Joint  
20 Apprenticeship Program.

21 (7) A fire service representative selected by the California  
22 State Firefighters' Association.

23 (8) One fire chief selected by the California Fire Chiefs  
24 Association.

25 (9) One fire chief selected by the California Fire Districts  
26 Association.

27 (10) One fire service labor representative selected by the  
28 California Labor Federation.

29 (11) One fire service labor representative selected by the  
30 California Professional Firefighters.

31 (12) One fire service labor representative selected by the  
32 International Association of Fire Fighters.

33 (13) One fire service labor representative selected by the  
34 California Department of Forestry Firefighters.

35 (14) One fire service representative selected by the League of  
36 California Cities.

37 (15) One fire service representative selected by the California  
38 State Association of Counties.

39 (16) A representative, appointed by the State Fire Marshal,  
40 from the United States Fire Administration.

1 (17) A representative, appointed by the State Fire Marshal,  
2 from the National Fire Academy.

3 (c) The State Fire Marshal shall serve as the chair of the task  
4 force.

5 (d) The task force shall prepare a report to the Legislature  
6 regarding the establishment of minimum training and continuing  
7 education standards on firefighting no later than December 31,  
8 2005.

9 *SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*  
10 *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety*  
11 *within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go*  
12 *into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

13 *In order to implement a comprehensive, continuing training*  
14 *and education structure that meets the needs of the disciplines*  
15 *within the fire service profession, at the earliest possible time, it*  
16 *is necessary that this act take effect immediately.*